

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated November 15, 2005. Claims 1-97 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 8-30, 36-51, 53 and 58-95 were allowed, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 31-33, 35, 52, 54, 55, 57, 96 and 97 were rejected, and claims 3, 6, 34 and 56 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 19, 27, 31, 32, 37, 43, 52, 58, 64, 68, 75, 78, 80, 87, 92, 96 and 97 have been amended. Claims 1-97 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is noted and corrected in accordance with the replacement drawing sheets accompanying this Amendment.

Applicant has provided replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 1 and 11 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheets. The replacement sheets amend Figs. 1 and 11 by inserting descriptive labels for each of the figures.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings are now in compliance with all formality requirements, and requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Abstract

The abstract was objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has amended the abstract and submits that the abstract is now in compliance with all formality

requirements. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

§112 Rejections

Claims 5, 11, 19, 27, 32, 37, 43, 48, 54, 58, 64, 68, 75, 80, 87 and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner asserted that the phrase "such as" renders claims indefinite.

Applicant has amended the claims to delete all uses of the phrase "such as" and submits that such amendments to the claims render claims 5, 11, 19, 27, 32, 37, 43, 48, 54, 58, 64, 68, 75, 80, 87 and 92 compliant with §112. Accordingly, applicant requests that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 31-33, 35, 52, 54, 55, 57, 96 and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Masui et al. (US Patent No. 6,393,013).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 31, 52, 96 and 97 are patentable over Masui.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 1, 31, 52, 96 and 97 is directed toward the sharing of a communication channel between a plurality of communication terminals so as to permit at least one of the communication terminals to communicate at a predetermined communication cycle while avoiding a "collision" with other communication terminals. Each of the claims recites that communication timing is allocated, and that one or more of the plurality of terminals is notified of the communication timing allocation "for each

iteration of said communication cycle." Supporting disclosure for notifying one or more terminals of the communication timing allocation for each iteration of the communication cycle can be found in the specification at, for example, page 28, line 21 - page 29, line 3.

Masui fails to disclose the sharing of a communication channel between a plurality of communication terminals so as to permit at least one of the communication terminals to communicate at a predetermined communication cycle, wherein one or more of the terminals are notified of the communication timing allocation for each iteration of the communication cycle. Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 1, 31, 52, 96 and 97 are patentable over Masui on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, applicant believes that dependent claims 2-7, 32-35, and 54-57 are patentable over Masui for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1 and 31.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 09/762,424

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-723

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: May 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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